

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:      Mitsuhiro KURANO                      Examiner:    (To be assigned)  
Ser. No.:        10/597953                                      Art Group:    (To be assigned)  
Title:            DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING  
                      SAME  
Filed:            14 August 2006                                      Date:    15 August 2006

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Second Preliminary Amendment is filed to correct minor matters of translation in the claims, to reflect US custom regarding claim format and to correct a minor typographical error. Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION – none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS - are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS – none.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS – begin on page 5.